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PATENT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

DANILO PORRO ET AL.

Serial No.: 10/068,137

Filed: February 6, 2002

For: YEAST STRAINS FOR THE
PRODUCTION OF LACTIC ACID

Group Art Unit: 1652

Prior Examiner: Unknown

Attorney Docket: 2027.547096/RFE
(2005470)

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

APR 11 2002

RECEIVED

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

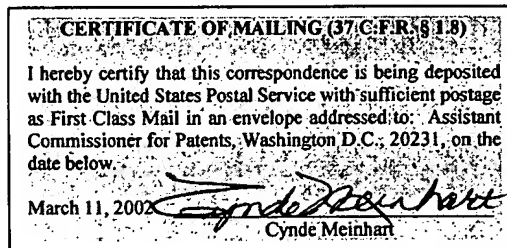
Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

In the Claims

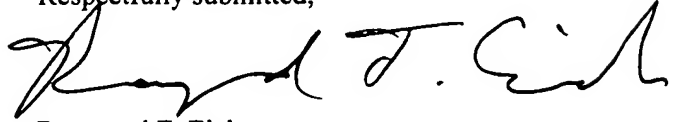
Please add claim 45, as follows:

--45. (New) The process of claim 37, wherein recovering comprises distillation of lactic acid or an ester thereof.--



Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard evidencing receipt of these materials.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymund F. Eich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raymund" being more prominent than the last name "Eich".

Raymund F. Eich
Reg. No. 42,508

AGENT FOR APPLICANTS

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March 11, 2002